

WITHOUT RAISING TAXES  
OR CUTTING MUNICIPAL AID...



Working Together to  
Balance the Budget

The 2010 legislative session began with the state facing a projected deficit of more than \$1.2 billion for the current two-year budget. Despite the daunting task of closing the deficit, we were able to work together in a bipartisan fashion with the governor to balance the budget. We did it without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we cut state spending by hundreds of millions of dollars, reduced borrowing and worked hard to maximize federal funding.

Aid For Our Towns

State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That’s why I fought hard to protect funding for East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington and South Windsor. This table shows the state grants and reimbursements for our district in Fiscal Year 2010–2011.

	Fiscal Year 10-11
Total Education Grants	\$71,173,551
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$777,768
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$447,238
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$775,630
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$976,394
Total State Funds to the 3rd Senate District	\$74,150,581

MORE NEW LAWS

Lowering Energy Prices

I voted for landmark energy reform legislation this year—the most important in over a decade—that targets a 15 percent reduction in our electric rates, increases our commitment to Connecticut-based renewable energy generation, consolidates various state energy entities and provides assistance for sta residents to make efficiency and renewable energy improvements in their own homes. Unfortunately, these important measures were vetoed by the governor.



Cracking Down on Children’s Health Risk

According to a recent report, since toxic lead was banned from use in children’s toys, some Chinese manufacturers have been turning to another metal: cadmium. It is common in children’s jewelry. So, beginning July 1, 2014, Connecticut will ban the sale of children’s jewelry containing significant amounts of cadmium. The bipartisan initiative will help protect children and give parents more peace of mind.



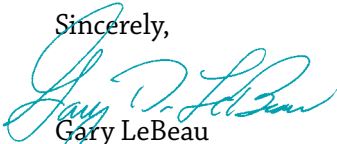
Dear Neighbor,

Everywhere I go constituents tell me the same thing: they want state government to focus on growing jobs and balancing the budget. I got the message and I have been working on this for some time.

This session, under the leadership of the Commerce Committee which I chair, a historic bipartisan jobs bill was passed. The initiative helps businesses get access to the capital and credit that they need to thrive. We also made Connecticut an easier place to do business by cutting back on red tape and streamlining the regulatory process.


We tackled the budget deficit the same way. By working together, we balanced the budget without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we made significant cuts to state spending, maximized federal aid and reduced borrowing.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you as Connecticut continues on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,  
  
Gary LeBeau  
State Senator

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# JOBS

HB-545 SB-107  
SB-494 SB-1027  
SB-443

## State Senator Gary LeBeau

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I’m proud to  
represent the  
citizens of:  
East Hartford,  
Ellington,  
East Windsor  
& South Windsor

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# STATE SENATOR Gary LeBeau

Serving East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington & South Windsor

## GROWING JOBS

### Connecticut's Landmark Jobs Bill

My top priority this legislative session was helping to create high-quality jobs. Our focus was on helping small business and creating tomorrow's businesses. Our landmark bipartisan jobs bill was one of the most important jobs initiatives that the General Assembly has ever considered. Provisions of the new law include:

- ▶ Loans and lines of credit for small businesses to help fund expansions or new equipment
- ▶ Sales-tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- ▶ Pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- ▶ Tax credits for early-stage business angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology, green technology and more.



My former student Chris Massey of East Hartford is an employee at Pegasus Manufacturing in Middletown where I attended Governor Rell's signing of this jobs bill.

This law is an example of what can happen when business leaders, academics and small-business owners from across the state come together with one common goal: help Connecticut grow jobs.

### Reducing Red Tape for Connecticut Businesses

Growing jobs must be Connecticut's top priority. A new law streamlines the state's environmental permitting process for economic development projects by reducing government bureaucracy. In business, time is money—and now Connecticut businesses will have the opportunity to save both. Of course, environmental safeguards cannot be overlooked. That's why we worked with environmental advocates and business leaders to ensure that a faster permitting process doesn't jeopardize the quality of the air we breathe or the water we drink.

## NEW LAWS



### Helping Connecticut Students Race to the Top

The Obama Administration's Race to the Top program made \$4.3 billion available to states that reform public education. To meet that challenge, we approved a landmark education bill that uses technology to track students' academic growth, creates new teacher accountability standards and provides options to fix failing schools. With these reforms Connecticut will have a better shot at securing Race to the Top funds, closing the achievement gap and ensuring that our graduates can compete in the global economy.

### Stepping Up the Fight Against Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a serious epidemic. The General Assembly took action this legislative session by passing a package of bills that will help protect victims, prevent future abuse and increase public awareness.

- ▶ **Judicial and Criminal Justice Systems**—Changes include: implementing a pilot program for electronic monitoring of the highest risk domestic violence offenders; improved enforcement of protective orders; and the creation of three additional domestic violence court dockets.
- ▶ **Housing and Human Services Changes**—The process for survivors of domestic violence who need to terminate their lease will be less burdensome.
- ▶ **Education Changes**—This bill added teen dating and domestic violence education to education staff training programs.

### New Rules for Hospitals That Make Mistakes

When hospitals make mistakes, consumers deserve to know. That's why the legislature passed a law that I have been advocating which requires the state to collect hospital accident data by hospital and provide consumers with an annual report. Hospitals and outpatient facilities are also required to develop 'action plans' within 30 days to address any errors, and are prohibited from taking action against any employee who may 'blow the whistle' on what he or she sees as dangerous practices.



### Art at the Capitol

Almost three decades ago, former state Senator (now Congressman) John Larson began a program to highlight the artistic talents of students from the 3rd Senatorial District towns of East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington and South Windsor. For fourteen years I have been honored to have carried on the annual tradition of displaying and celebrating at the Capitol the

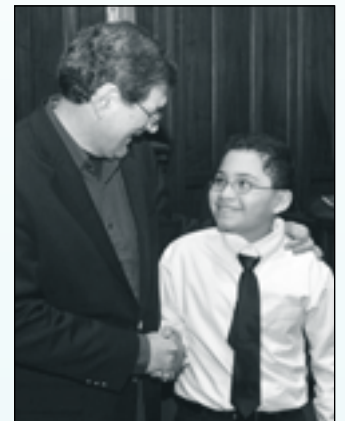


East Hartford's Elizabeth Lasek tells me about her colored pencil orchid drawing.



South Windsor's Melissa Buonanducci and her father Ronald. Melissa's collage of her father serving in Balad, Iraq was one of dozens of art projects that was displayed in the Capitol.

creative aptitudes of our next generation of painters, Web designers, digital artists, animators and others.

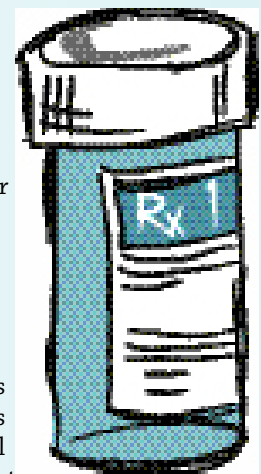


Another proud young artist, Hernan Cortez, Jr. from Orchard Hill Elementary School in South Windsor.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

- ▶ **CHOICES Program**  
The CHOICES Program provides information to persons age 60 and older. Currently, CHOICES is assisting seniors who need help enrolling in Medicare Part D. 1-800-994-9422
- ▶ **Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)**  
By joining MSP, eligible seniors could save \$1,000 per year or more in Medicare Part B premiums, and the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments. Most individuals in ConnPACE are eligible for Medicare and can enroll in MSP.

As a ConnPACE member, your pharmacy co-payment is now \$16.25. Your pharmacy co-pay could be reduced to as low as \$2.50 for generics and \$6.30 for brand-name drugs on Medicare Part D's Drug list. For more information, call CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422, speak to a representative at 211, or visit [www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms](http://www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms).



### Other Resources and Links

Find more helpful resources for jobseekers, veterans, those facing foreclosure and more at [www.senatedems.ct.gov](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov).